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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

66569 7590 03/12/2009

FITZPATRICK CELLA (AMEX)  
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

MEYERS, MATTHEW S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3689

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/708,112

02/10/2004

Robert G. Barnes

03292.101300.1

2111

TITLE OF INVENTION: TICKET TRACKING AND REDEEMING SYSTEM AND METHOD

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/12/2009

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.**

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.**

### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
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or Fax (571)-273-2885**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

**Note:** A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

66569 7590 03/12/2009

**FITZPATRICK CELLA (AMEX)  
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
NEW YORK, NY 10112**

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/708,112 02/10/2004 Robert G. Barnes 03292.101300.1 2111

**TITLE OF INVENTION: TICKET TRACKING AND REDEEMING SYSTEM AND METHOD**

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/12/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
MEYERS, MATTHEW S	3689	705-001000

**1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).**

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

**2. For printing on the patent front page, list**

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

**4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:**

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

**4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)**

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

**5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)**

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

**NOTE:** The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,112	02/10/2004	Robert G. Barnes	03292.101300.1	2111
66569	7590	03/12/2009	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA (AMEX) 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			MEYERS, MATTHEW S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3689	
DATE MAILED: 03/12/2009				

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 209 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 209 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/708,112

Applicant(s)

BARNES ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

MATTHEW S. MEYERS

3689

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/4/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-9,12,13,15,16 and 18-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date ____     | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____.   |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jonathan Berschadsky on 02/04/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for facilitating an automated redemption of an unused ticket, comprising steps of:

- setting, via a computer system, an aging period;
- identifying, via a computer system, a scheduled date of an issued ticket;
- adding, via a computer system, the aging period to the scheduled date;
- determining, via a computer system, at the scheduled date plus the aging period whether all or a portion of the issued ticket is unused;
- if all or a portion of the ticket has not been used,
  - identifying, via a computer system, the issued ticket as an unused ticket
  - and setting a ticket status field in a table;
  - comparing, via a computer system, information in an invoice table and a central reservation system database to determine at least one of a use of the ticket and a change to the ticket;

Art Unit: 3689

calculating, via a computer system, a residual value of the ticket based on a contract term associated with the ticket and any changes to the ticket or partial use of the ticket;

storing, via a computer system, the residual value in the invoice table;

comparing, via a computer system, the residual value to a minimum threshold for presenting a ticket redemption offer to a client;

generating, via a computer system, a report based at least in part on the table and the comparing the residual value step; and

transmitting, via a computer system, the report to at least one of a client travel agency and a client of the unused ticket.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of processing, by the client travel agency, a refund of the unused ticket.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of collecting ticket data from a financial transaction account, wherein the ticket data is used to determine an issued ticket for any of a plurality of selected purchasers.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ticket is at least one of a paper ticket and an electronic ticket.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of separating non-refundable tickets.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1,  
wherein the ticket is an electronic ticket that includes a plurality of data fields, and  
wherein the step of calculating further includes communicating the plurality of data fields to a customer service tool and receiving the residual value from the customer service tool.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying, via a computer system, a scheduled date of an issued ticket, is based upon an analysis of at least one of a client travel agency database and a global distribution system.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ticket corresponds to any of a plurality of selected purchasers.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
collecting said scheduled date of said issued ticket and identifying whether  
said issued ticket has been used using a plurality of central reservation system  
databases.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 18:  
further comprising instructions for executing the step of collecting said scheduled date  
of said issued ticket and identifying whether said issued ticket has been used using a  
plurality of central reservation system databases.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a third party issuing  
agency is notified that the unused ticket was purchased with a charge card.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 18:  
wherein a third party issuing agency is notified that the unused ticket was purchased  
with a charge card.

17. (Canceled)



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18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, said plurality of instructions when executed by one or more processors, cause said one or more processors to perform ~~storing instructions for executing the following steps:~~

- setting an aging period;

- identifying a scheduled date of an issued ticket;

- adding the aging period to the scheduled date;

- determining at the scheduled date plus the aging period whether all or a portion of the issued ticket is unused;

- if all or a portion of the ticket has not been used,

- identifying the issued ticket as an unused ticket and setting a ticket status field in a table;

- comparing information in an invoice table and a central reservation system database to determine at least one of a use of the ticket and a change to the ticket;

- calculating a residual value of the ticket based on a contract term associated with the ticket and any changes to the ticket or partial use of the ticket;

- storing the residual value in the invoice table;

- comparing the residual value to a minimum threshold for presenting a ticket redemption offer to a client;

- generating a report based at least in part on the table and the comparing the residual value step; and

transmitting the report to at least one of a client travel agency and a client of the unused ticket.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ticket redemption offer includes at least one of an alternative ticket, a discounted alternative ticket, and a form of value offered to be provided in exchange for, or in lieu of, a redemption credit.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ticket redemption offer is a redemption credit.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium according to claim 18, wherein the ticket redemption offer includes at least one of an alternative ticket, a discounted alternative ticket, and another form of value offered to be provided in exchange for, or in lieu of, a redemption credit.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium according to claim 18, wherein the ticket redemption offer is a redemption credit.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW S. MEYERS whose telephone number is (571)272-7943. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jan Mooneyham can be reached on (571) 272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew S Meyers/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/JOHN G WEISS/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3629